



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEM COMMAND  
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WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376

IN REPLY REFER TO

4770

Ser 21I/093

27 Nov 2015

John M. Fowler, Executive Director  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street NW, Suite 308  
Washington DC 20001-2637

SUBJ: ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROGRAM COMMENT FOR THE DISPOSITION  
OF HISTORIC VESSELS

Dear Mr. Fowler:

Per the requirements of the Program Comment for the  
Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels  
(Program Comment), issued by the Advisory Council for Historic  
Preservation on 5 March 2010, the annual report is provided as  
enclosure (1).

If you have any questions, my point of contact is Mr. James  
Poles, NAVSEA SEA21I, Navy Inactive Ships Program, (202) 781-  
0149 or James.Poles@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

W. BOOZER  
Acting Director  
Inactive Ships Office, SEA 21I

Enclosure: 1. Annual Report on the Program Comment for the  
Disposition of Historic Vessels

Copy to:

Eric Hein, Executive Director, National Conference of State  
Historic Preservation Officers

**Annual Report to the  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
and the  
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers  
on the  
Program Comment for the Department of the Navy  
for the Disposition of Historic Vessels**

**Prepared by:**

**Naval Sea Systems Command  
and  
Naval History and Heritage Command  
Washington, DC**

**1 December 2015**

## **Annual Report on the Program Comment for the Disposition of Historic Vessels**

### **I. Introduction**

This is the sixth Annual Report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) as required by the Program Comment for the Department of the Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels (hereinafter "the Program Comment"). The Program Comment was initiated by the Naval Sea Systems Command as an alternative method for the way in which the Navy will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) with regard to the determination of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of its vessels and the treatment of adverse effects that may result from their disposition. The Program Comment was approved and issued by the ACHP effective 5 March 2010 and published in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 75, No. 49 on 15 March 2010.

For a property to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, it must meet one or more of the five evaluation criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior. The Program Comment provides guidance for applying these evaluation criteria to the Navy's vessels, including active and inactive (decommissioned) vessels, which have unique characteristics compared to many other types of property assessed under the NHPA. In accordance with the Program Comment, U.S. Navy vessels are evaluated using these five characteristics:

1. The vessel was awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation. (A Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to military units that have performed an extremely meritorious or heroic act, usually in the face of an armed enemy.)
- ii. An individual act of heroism took place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross. (The Medal of Honor is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force. The Navy Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.)
- iii. A President of the United States was assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service.
- iv. The vessel was the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities, or other historic or socially significant event occurred on the vessel.
- v. Some other historic or socially significant event occurred on the vessel.

Qualified Navy Historians with knowledge about Navy vessels review the history associated with active and inactive vessels to determine which vessels meet one or more of the five evaluation characteristics stated above.

According to National Register Bulletin titled "*How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*," issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, a property shall not only be significant under the National Register criteria but also must retain integrity.

The National Register Bulletin states:

"The evaluation of integrity is sometimes a subjective judgment, but it must always be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance.

Historic properties either retain integrity (this is, convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant".

The Bulletin defines seven aspects of integrity that require evaluation to determine integrity. They are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. For any vessel that meets one or more of the five Program Comment Evaluation Characteristics stated above, the same qualified Navy historians then determine whether that vessel continues to possess integrity applying the seven aspects of integrity as described in the Bulletin.

In accordance with the Program Comment, if the Navy determines that a vessel satisfies one or more of the five characteristics above, and possesses integrity such that the vessel looks much like it did when it was built or during the period for which it is considered historically significant, then the vessel is eligible for listing in the NRHP. For inactive vessels, the Navy documents its findings with a Determination of Eligibility (DoE) or a Determination of Ineligibility (DoI) statement after decommissioning but prior to vessel disposal. DoE's and DoI's are subject to participation by historic preservation stakeholders in accordance with Section III.C of the Program Comment. For active vessels, any DoE is preliminary until the vessel has been decommissioned, unless the vessel is planned to be a Foreign Military Sale transfer on the same day it is decommissioned from U.S. Navy active service.

## **II. Report Requirements**

In accordance with Section V of the Program Comment, the Navy will submit an annual report to the NCSHPO and the ACHP on the progress of the Program Comment by 1

December. The Program Comment requires that the annual report include the following information:

- 1) The names and status of active vessels identified as eligible for listing in the NRHP, and the basis for their eligibility. See Table 1.
- 2) The names and status of inactive vessels identified as eligible for listing in the NRHP. See Table 2.
- 3) The names and status of inactive vessels identified as ineligible for listing in the NRHP. See Table 3.
- 4) The names of the vessels eligible for listing in the NRHP whose final disposition occurred during the reporting period. See Table 4.

### III. NHPA Eligibility Determinations

Tables 1 through 4 identify vessels and the completed NHPA eligibility determinations made for these vessels from the previous report through the cutoff date for information contained in this report, 2 November 2015. Copies of the DoE or DoI final determinations for inactive vessels listed in this report are publicly accessible in the website of the NAVSEA Inactive Ships Office website,

<http://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/TeamShips/InactiveShippages/HistoricEvaluations/CompletedEvaluations2015.aspx>.

**Table 1: Active Vessels Identified as Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places**

Hull Number	Vessel Name	Vessel Status	Applicable Characteristic(s) (I, ii, iii, iv, v)
None			

Status of participation by historic preservation stakeholders for vessels identified in Table 1 (Program Comment Section III.C): N/A

**Table 2: Inactive Vessels Identified as Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places**

<b>Hull Number</b>	<b>Vessel Name</b>	<b>Vessel Status</b>	<b>Applicable Characteristic(s) (I, ii, iii, iv, v)</b>
FFG 58	SAMUEL B ROBERTS	Stricken	ii, v
NR-1	Submersible Research Vessel [Unnamed]	Inactivated	iv

Status of participation by historic preservation stakeholders for vessels identified in Table 2 (Program Comment Section III.C):

- Ex-SAMUEL B ROBERTS (FFG 58): The DoE was provided to the NCSHPO via email 12 March 2015. Further, the DoE was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 1 June 2015. One comment, from the State of Florida, was received. This comment concurred with the preliminary DoE.
- NR 1 (Submersible Research Vessel, Unnamed): The DoE was provided to the NCSHPO via email 1 September 2015. Further, the DoE was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 2 November 2015. No comments were received by a stakeholder or member of the public.

**Table 3: Inactive Vessels Identified as Ineligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places**

<b>Hull Number</b>	<b>Vessel Name</b>	<b>Vessel Status</b>
FFG 40	HALYBURTON	Stricken, FMS candidate
FFG 48	VANDEGRIFT	Stricken
FFG 49	ROBERT G BRADLEY	Stricken
FFG 50	TAYLOR	Stricken
FFG 51	GARY	Stricken
FFG 55	ELROD	Stricken

FFG 60	RODNEY M DAVIS	Stricken
FFG 61	INGRAHAM	Stricken
LPH 10	TRIPOLI	Stricken; MARAD Title Transfer
LSD 15	SHADWELL	Stricken and repurposed as a fire research testing vessel*
PG 98	GRAND RAPIDS	Decommissioned and re-designated a boat
T-AE 32	FLINT	MARAD Title Transfer
T-AGM 23	OBSERVATION ISLAND	Stricken; MARAD Title Transfer
T-AOE 10	BRIDGE	Inactivated

\*Due to her deteriorated condition, a final disposition plan for ex-SHADWELL is underway.

Status of participation by historic preservation stakeholders for vessels identified in Table 3 (Program Comment Section III.C):

- Ex-HALYBURTON (FFG 40): The DoI was provided to the NCSHPO via email 12 March 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 11 May 2015. No comments were received by a stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48): The DoI was provided to the NCSHPO via email 14 January 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 15 March 2015. No comments were received by a stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49): The DoI was provided to the NCSHPO via email on 12 March 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 11 May 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-TAYLOR (FFG 50): The DoI was provided to the NCSHPO via email on 14 January 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 15 March 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-GARY (FFG 51): The DoI was provided to the NCSHPO via email on 17 August 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 2 November 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.

- Ex-ELROD (FFG 55): The DoI was provided to the NCSHPO via email on 14 January 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 15 March 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-RODNEY M DAVIS (FFG 60): The DoI was provided to the NCSHPO via email on 24 October 2014. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 19 December 2014. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-INGRAHAM (FFG 61): The DoI was provided to NCSHPO via email on 12 March 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 11 May 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-TRIPOLI (LPH 10): The DoI was provided to NCSHPO via email on 15 October 2014. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 19 December 2014. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- SHADWELL (LSD 15): The DoI was provided to NCSHPO via email on 1 September 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 3 November 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-GRAND RAPIDS (PG 98): The DoI was provided to NCSHPO via email on 24 October 2014. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 19 December 2014. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-FLINT (T-AE 32): The DoI was provided to NCSHPO via email on 14 January 2014. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 7 March 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-OBSERVATION ISLAND (T-AGM 23): The DoI was provided to NCSHPO via email on 14 January 2015. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 7 March 2015. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.
- Ex-BRIDGE (T-AOE 10): The DoI was provided to NCSHPO via email on 24 October 2014. Further, the DoI was posted to the Inactive Ships Office's website for a 60-day public comment period that expired on 19 December 2014. No comments were received by any stakeholder or member of the public.



**Table 4: Vessels Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places  
Whose Final Disposition Occurred during the Reporting Period**

<b>Hull Number</b>	<b>Vessel Name</b>	<b>Vessel Status</b>	<b>Applicable Characteristic(s) (I, ii, iii, iv, v)</b>
CV 61	RANGER	Dismantlement in progress	(i) Presidential Unit Citation

Status of documentation supporting final disposition for vessels identified in Table 4 (Program Comment Section V): A Final Environmental Assessment/Overseas Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was completed for ex-RANGER in December 2014.

#### **IV. Transfer of Documents to the National Archives for Eligible Vessels**

The Program Comment calls for the Annual Report to provide a status of the transfer of documentation (Book of General Plans, final In-Service condition (INSURV) report) to the National Archives associated with the vessels that have been found eligible for listing under the Program Comment and have been disposed of.

During the past year, the Book of General Plans reproduced in digitally stable media for ex-SEA SHADOW (IX 529) was transferred to NAVSEA's Records Office for subsequent transfer to the National Archives/Federal Records Center.

#### **V. Effectiveness of the Navy Program Comment**

Section VI of the Program Comment calls for the Navy to evaluate the Program Comment's effectiveness after the first year of implementation and every five years thereafter within the context of its annual report or by convening a meeting with historic preservation stakeholders. Further, Section VI requires that the Navy shall consider any written recommendations for improvement submitted by historic preservation stakeholders. To date, the Navy has not received any recommendations for improvement from historic preservation stakeholders.

The Navy has completed 87 evaluations of active and inactive vessels since the inception of the Program Comment. All completed evaluations are available to the public for viewing at <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/TeamShips/InactiveShippages/HistoricEvaluations/CompletedEvaluations2015.aspx>

Out of the evaluations completed under the Program Comment, 15 vessels were found to be eligible for listing in the NRHP:

CANON (PG 90)  
CHARLES F ADAMS (DDG 2)  
CONSTELLATION (CV 64)  
ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)  
FORRESTAL (AVT 59)  
HAYES (PG 195)  
HUGHES MINING BARGE (HMB 1)  
IOWA (BB 61)  
KITTY HAWK (CV 63)  
LOS ANGELES (SSN 688)  
RANGER (CV 61)  
SAMUEL B ROBERTS (FFG 58)  
SEA SHADOW (IX 529)  
Submersible Research Vessel (unnamed) (NR 1)  
TICONDEROGA (CG 47)

Of this group of vessels evaluated under the Program Comment and found eligible to be listed in the NRHP, one vessel, IOWA (BB 61) was donated by the U.S. Navy on 30 April, 2012 to the Pacific Battleship Center, Los Angeles, CA for reuse as a museum ship. In addition, salvaged pieces of the submarine, NR 1, are on display at the Submarine Force Library and Museum, Groton, CT. CHARLES F ADAMS (DDG 2) is currently on donation hold by the Navy as a prospective museum donation.

The Navy finds the Program Comment to be an effective method for complying with Section 106 and Section 110 of the NHPA. It has allowed the Navy to apply the eligibility criteria defined by the National Park Service to its vessels in a more uniformed and expeditious manner. In addition, the Program Comment has allowed the Navy via the Inactive Ships Office's website to successfully solicit comments from historic preservation stakeholders regarding a vessel's eligibility or ineligibility for listing in the NRHP. The Navy Inactive Ships Office and the Naval History and Heritage Command have held meetings throughout the last five years to discuss measures to improve Program Comment implementation, and are in frequent communication to complete draft evaluations and annual reports, discuss the comments made by stakeholders on draft evaluations, update the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, and report Program Comment findings to the Naval Vessel Register.